Support Prices of Agro-Products

1203. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in the support prices of agro-products is not in proportion to the increase in the cost of agro-production;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that Government propose to take to provide the farmers of the country, suitable price for their agro-products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) While formulating its recommendations on price policy the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices considers a number of important factors like cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers (Terms of Trade), etc. Thus the Government ensures that the rise in input costs is fully covered by increase in the minimum support prices of important agricultural commodities.

(c) In order to ensure fair and remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, the Government has effected certain changes in the method of evaluation of certain items of cost of production of crops. These are: (i) Valuation of labour at statutory minimum wage rate or actual wage rate whichever is higher (ii) Evaluation of managerial input as an item of cost at 10% of the total cost and (iii) Adjustment of procurement/minimum support prices announced before the sowing season in case of increase in input cost turns out to be higher than the anticipated rise. After fixation of the minimum support price, the Government provide market support to ensure that farmers receive the minimum support prices as announced.

Special Rice Production Scheme

1204. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: SHRI NAGMANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of Uttar Pradesh included under the Special Rice Production Scheme;

(b) whether any specific assistance has been provided to the farmers of the State under this scheme; and

(c) the assistance provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM):

(a) At present all the districts of Uttar Pradesh are covered by Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice) & Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat). These schemes are based on Integrated Cropping Systems approach & provide assistance for cereal crops like Rice, Wheat & Coarse Cereals to all districts of Uttar Pradesh through multiple components. The State of Uttar Pradesh does not have any scheme entitled Special Rice Production Scheme.

(b) Under these schemes assistance is provided to the farmers through a number of components like: certified seeds, indentified improved farm implements, sprinkler irrigation sets, productivity awards, soil ameliorants, green manure seed, field demonstrations & farmers training. The last two components however, are available only to such blocks where the productivity is below average productivity of National/ State level.

(c) Under these schemes i.e. ICDP Rice & ICDP-Wheat and their counter part proceding schemes in operation during the plan period, an amount of Rs. 3638.59 lakh & Rs. 4810.57 lakh